

**WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT THE TEACHING OF LEGALISM
IN THE BODY OF MESSIAH?**

For Average Joes From an Average Joe

There is a major concern today within the Body of Messiah over those who boldly teach that the Law (Torah) and the Feast Days of our Creator continue to be in full effect and **ARE** to be kept. Many believe that these brethren are walking in error as they blindly lead Messiah's sheep astray with their Judaizing, Legalistic teaching by promoting that obedience to the commands of our Creator **ARE** a necessary **PART** of our salvation. Something must be done about this. We must isolate and confront the very ring leader, and originator of this outlandish "cult".

I would like to suggest a plan of action which I believe should be carried out without hesitation for the good and best interest of us all. I have illustrated my program below. But...please keep in mind, as you read my "fictional" illustration that **THIS IS** indeed what we **WOULD BE SAYING** and **WOULD BE DOING** to the person responsible for this teaching we believe to be "heresy", and who is tragically and wickedly **DECEIVING** our brethren.

First: Imagine and visualize with your heart and mind that you yourself are addressing and facing down this awful fellow. Feel the words coursing through your veins. Feel the emotion pouring into the words as you prepare to say them. Gear yourself up to let this man have it with both barrels—"fix his wagon."

Next: We must track down this "low-life" who has set into motion all this legalistic Law (Torah) keeping, and teaching about obedience to our Creator being a necessary **PART** of salvation. We must set him straight and correct him publicly as an example for the world to see what is the end result of such silliness—an absurd man who foolishly believes that obedience is required in order to be pleasing to our Heavenly Father and blatantly and boldly encourages others to live their lives after the same manner of erroneous reasoning.

Wagon Fixing Time: I say we take this issue before the world for all to see. Then, challenge him to his face...Eye to eye, "What has being obedient brought you? Do you actually believe that obedience is more pleasing to our Creator than allowing him to forgive us our sins and pour his limitless, undeserved, mercy (grace) upon us! You are destroying the world with your Legalism. You are condemning people to destruction by teaching them to obey our Creator when in reality He is pleased with us...Because of his limitless, undeserved, mercy (grace), He is pleased whether we obey or disobey. So you want to be obedient? Good! Be obedient!!! Stand here like a man and prophesy to us as we all take turns slapping you and spitting in your face!!! Don't make a sound, not even a whimper as we nail you to this tree, you Legalistic do-gooder!!! Let's see if your Creator saves you now for all your obedience!"

Who Is The "Ring-Leader,"
The Originator Of Legalism?
Our Messiah!

The Messiah **Yahushua** (pronounced **Ya-hoo-shoo-ah**) kept His Father's Torah **PERFECTLY** without error and without fault. He did not add men's commandments to it; and He did not take away from it.

Was He a fanatic? Looks like it! He seemed to have it in His overly zealous mind that **IF** He did not keep His Father's Torah perfectly and obey His Father to his last breath, then **ALL OF OUR LIVES** would be eternally lost.

IF Messiah (**Yahushua**) did not keep the Law (Torah) **PERFECTLY**, then He **WAS NOT** the perfect sacrifice for our sins; and we **REMAIN** in our sins--without hope.

He has given us specific instructions—"Keep My Commandments"...**AS I HAVE KEPT MY FATHER'S COMMANDMENTS!**"

Joh 14:15 KJVR--If ye love me, **keep my commandments**.

Joh 15:10 KJVR--If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as **I have kept my Father's commandments**, and abide in his love.

Messiah **Yahushua** and the Father, **Yahuah**, (pronounced--**Ya-hoo-ah**) are **ONE**. Their commandments **ARE ONE AND THE SAME**.

Deu 6:4--"Hear, O Yisra'el: יהוה (**Yahuah**) our Elohim (**Mighty One**), יהוה (**Yahuah**) is one!

Joh 17:22--"And the esteem which You gave Me I have given them, so that they might be one as **We are one**,

Joh 17:11--"And I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. **Set-apart Father, guard them in Your Name which You have given Me, so that they might be one, as We are.**

The Apostle John says that he who claims to belong to Messiah **SHOULD HIMSELF WALK** as Messiah walked!

1Jn 2:6-- The one who says he stays in Him **ought himself also to walk, even as He walked.**

Paul said, "imitate me as **I IMITATE MESSIAH**!"

1Co 4:16-17-- Therefore I appeal to you, to **BECOME IMITATORS of ME.** For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and trustworthy son in the Master, **who shall remind you of my ways in Messiah, as I teach everywhere in every assembly. BECOME IMITATORS OF ME, AS I ALSO AM OF MESSIAH.**

I firmly believe we should all consider participating in a practical experiment in proper application of the law. Let's test our "church" thinking...Literally put it to the test...

I propose we rob a bank and then let's see if we will be saved by the mercy of the court. It's possible...Maybe once...Perhaps twice...But if so, how many times can we do this before the court runs out of mercy? Has our disobedience inspired the court to pour out limitless, undeserved mercy (grace) upon us? I wouldn't bet on it.

Okay! Now, let's stand our ground and declare to the world our right to pick and choose the laws we will obey as well as our right to pick and choose the laws which we refuse to obey, and trust in the court and its mercy (grace) to make up for our lack of obedience to the Law. Let's give that a shot! We'll all get together and talk about in twenty years when we get out. Now apply this reasoning to obedience **TO** Spiritual Law (Torah).

Please consider something for a moment...How many people do you know who have been imprisoned, or executed for **OVER-OBEYING THE LAW?**

Perhaps we should all see the grace of the law at work when it **IS NOT** met with a heart-felt love and desire **FOR** the law and an equal love and desire to **OBEY** and keep the law...Go to a real prison and **SEE WITH OUR OWN EYES** the grace those folks have found. Maybe, watch an execution and see how often the guilty party is spared.

An Average Joe's Conclusion...If things do not operate in this manner in the physical world, **WHY WOULD** things operate any differently in the Spiritual world?

An Average Joe's Observation...There is not to be found in Scripture a single time or a place where Messiah **Yahushua** **EVER** once spoke against or criticized **ANY MAN** for being **TOO** obedient to His Father's Torah—for being Legalistic in his observance of the Law (Torah)...Rather...He criticized those who were "teaching for doctrines the commandments of men".

The words "Legalism", "Legalist", or "Legalistic" are not to be found in Scripture...No matter the translation. So where could they have originated? Let's try the author of confusion...Our adversary and ever-determined enemy, satan.

For any of us to believe that we could possibly enter the Kingdom of **Yahuah** based upon our own righteousness and ability to keep the Law (Torah) would be suicide--even the best of us has "jay-walked" in this world...Has "jay-walked" spiritually--thus making each of us guilty in the eyes of the Law (Torah) as—**LAW (TORAH) BREAKERS**. That would not be Legalism, it would be blindness!

There is not in existence a football player that has not fouled up a play, fumbled the ball, or caused the loss of a game. They each need forgiveness from their coaches and teammates and do not try to pretend as though they are faultless and have never messed up. **BUT...**Even though they make mistakes, they do not stop trying to achieve perfection, but instead constantly strive to increase their performance and abilities. They eat, sleep, and breathe **FOOTBALL** and love the game so intensely that they dedicate their "all" **FANATICALLY** to make the game of football their life and their hope!!! In order to do this, they must wholeheartedly give their best. What determines their best? The rules...The rules of the game must be obeyed. If any player performs poorly or doesn't obey the rules, his team will suffer for it; and he himself may be denied the privilege of playing in the game. He could be suspended...Worse—kicked off the team!

**NO ONE CALLS A FOOTBALL PLAYER
TRYING TO GET TO THE SUPERBOWL
A LEGALIST!**

Think for a moment...When have you ever heard a commentator say, "Well, 'ole so and so' is a pretty good running back, but he'll never make it to the Super Bowl. He's simply too Legalistic about playing football...The guy's...Too intense...Loves the game too much...Gives his 'all'...Practices too much...Wants to win too much...All he thinks about is football." To the best of my knowledge, this has never happened in the history of the game!

Those who so boldly attack their brothers and sisters in Messiah, for desiring to walk obediently in the Torah of **Yahuah** and keep His Feasts, with accusations of "Legalism" are aligning themselves against the teaching of Messiah **Yahushua**. Out of good and well meaning hearts they are unintentionally assisting in the spreading and teaching a lie. Consider this...

How can it be wrong to walk as Messiah walked?

So, what is the real issue? I believe the real issue is...Many of us--many within the "church"--have been deceived into believing that "jesus" was some kind of a rebel--a "revolutionist"--who **DID NOT** keep his father's Law (Torah), but instead, did away with it. If that were true, then **THAT** particular Messiah or "jesus"--the "law-ending" one--**WOULD BE AN IMPERFECT** sacrifice for **SIN**. Those trusting in **THAT IMPERFECT SACRIFICE**--a "law-ending", "law-less"

sacrifice--for their salvation could be in great danger of discovering, to their dismay, that they have been deceived on that "Great Day of **Yahuah**".

Mat 7:21-23--"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Master, Master,' shall enter into the reign of the heavens, **but he who is doing the desire (will) of My Father** in the heavens. "Many shall say to Me in that day, 'Master, Master, have we not prophesied in Your Name, and cast out demons in Your Name, and done many mighty works in Your Name?' "**And then I shall declare to them, 'I never knew you, depart from Me, you who work lawlessness!'**

The teaching of a "Law-ending" (Torah-ending) rebel messiah or "jesus" is without doubt the teaching of **THE SPIRIT OF "ANTI-MESSIAH"**. **ANTI-** means against! Opposed to! Opposite of! What can we conclude from this? Simple...Whatever the true Messiah teaches--such as "obey my commandments as I have kept my Father's commandments"--this false messiah will refute and teach **EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE**.

There **IS** "another" messiah who will come and whose teachings will be taught and accepted, as prophesied by **Yahushua** Messiah and the Apostle Paul (Shaul)...

Joh 5:43--"I have come in My Father's Name and you do not receive Me, **if another comes in his own name, him you would receive.**

2Co 11:4--For, indeed, if he who is coming proclaims **another (Yahushua) יהושע, whom we have not proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit** which you have not received, **or a different Good News** which you have not accepted, **you put up with it well enough!**

Whose name did the "Law-ending" (Torah-ending) "jesus" come in? The true, perfect sacrifice for sin, Messiah **Yahushua**, came in His Father's Name--the Name of **Yahuah**--to do His Father's Desire and His Father's Will. The Name of the Father is contained within the Name of the Son. **Yahushua** means..."**Yah...Will... Save...His...People**"...

Joh 4:34-- עשוהי (Yahushua) said to them, "**My food is to do the desire (will) of Him who sent Me**, and to accomplish His work.

On that "Great Day" of His return, Messiah **Yahushua** will be coming once again in His Father's Name...The children of Yisra'el will once again shout the words...

Mat 21:9--And the crowds who went before and those who followed cried out, saying, "Hoshia-na to the Son of Dawid! **Blessed is He who is coming in the Name of (Yahuah) יהוה!** Hoshia-na in the highest!"

So my friends, I must share with you that I am a Legalist and follower of **Yahushua** Messiah. My sins and my weaknesses are uncountable. My ability to keep **Yahuah's** Torah and Feasts perfectly and without spot or sin is **NON-EXISTENT**. In an Average Joes words—I seek a goal which I will never reach or fully achieve in this life. But...**IT IS** a goal worth striving for! **IT IS** a prize worth winning! My overwhelming desire and goal is to please my Master--my Messiah!

Yahushua HaMashiach!

I have been blessed in a fashion in which most men are never blessed in all their days. Some are blessed with fame while others are blessed with riches. Some are blessed with strength while others are blessed with great wisdom or intelligence. As for me, I have been blessed with weakness. **IT IS MY WEAKNESS** that has guided my path to the feet and the mercy and the blood of Messiah **Yahushua**. **IT IS MY WEAKNESS** that reminds me of my constant and ever present need for the forgiveness and guiding hand of Messiah **Yahushua** in my life.

I am blessed with a mental disorder. Unless **Yahuah** chooses to remove it from me, I will have this condition for the rest of my days upon this earth.

By the world's standards, I am somewhat of a mental cripple
...Something less than normal.

But...By Messiah's standards I **AM BLESSED**. I am blessed in that **Yahuah** has chosen to bestow His mercy upon me and allow me to see the simple truth of his word—**OBEDIENCE IS LIFE AND DISOBEDIENCE IS DEATH!**

Rom 6:23--For the wages of sin is death, but the favourable gift of Elohim is everlasting life in Messiah יהושע (Yahushua) our Master.

I AM BLESSED BECAUSE THE WORD OF YAHUAH TELLS ME SO...

2Co 12:9--And He said to me, "**My favour is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness.**" Most gladly, then, I shall rather boast in my weaknesses, so that the power of Messiah rests on me.

1Co 1:25-31--For the foolishness of Elohim (**Our Mighty One**) is wiser than men, and the weakness of Elohim (**Our Mighty One**) is stronger than men. For look at your calling, brothers, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble. But Elohim (**Our Mighty One**) has chosen the foolish *matters* of the world to put to shame the wise, and Elohim (**Our Mighty One**) has chosen the weak of the world to put to shame the strong. And Elohim (**Our Mighty One**) has chosen the low-born of the world and the despised, and the

ones that are not, that He might bring to naught the ones that are, so that no flesh should boast in His presence. And of Him you are in Messiah (**Yahushua**) יהושע, who became for us wisdom from Elohim (**Our Mighty One**), righteousness also, and set-apartness and redemption, that, as it has been written, "He who boasts, let him boast in (**Yahuah**) יהוה."

I will make my boast in Yahuah, Our Mighty One!

So please do not pity me, but praise **Yahuah** with me; and let us bless His Name together. If this **IS** Legalism, then let us all be guilty together as one; and we will serve Him and reign with Him as one **FOREVER!**

[This article is dedicated to Mike Myer who is searching for hope in a world without hope.]

The creator's Name is: **Yahuah (ya-hoo-ah)**
The Messiah's Name contains the Father's Name within it: **Yahushua (Ya-hoo-shoo-ah)** means "YAH-will save His people"

IT IS The Name above all Names.

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men

whereby we must be saved."

(Acts 4:12 KJV)

For by favour you have been saved, **through belief**, and that **not of yourselves**, it is **the gift of Elohim**,

it is **not by works**, so that **no one should boast**.

(Eph 2:8-9)

Blessed are the **perfect in the way**,

Who walk in the Torah of יהוה (Yahuah)!

(Psalm 119:1)

Open thou mine eyes, **that I may behold wondrous things out of thy Torah**.

(Psa. 119:18)

"Pray for the peace of Yerushalayim (Jerusalem),

Let those who love You be at rest."

(Psalm 122:6)

In memory of Hannah Szenech, a young poetess, who gave her life
willingly for her dream of a **restored** Yisra'el:

"Blessed, is the match, consumed, in lighting the flame!"...Of Yisra'el!

Hannah was "consumed", but not in vain!

The Two Stick Prophecy of Ezekiel 37:19-22 states that the **"flame"** of Yisra'el **WILL BE
REKINDLED!!!**

The House Of Yisra'el, together with The House Of Yahudah as **ONE NATION** is the prophesied
RESTORATION OF YISRA'EL!

We, as believers in Messiah **Yahushua**, **ARE GRAFTED INTO** Yisra'el--**WE ARE YISRA'EL!!!!**

Yisra'el **IS** the Bride of Messiah!

If you thirst for knowledge and truth purchase **AND READ** these books:

Fossilized Customs by Lew White

Study of Two House Restoration of Yisra'el by Brick Parrish

Come Out Of Her My People by C.J. Koster

Walk In the Light Series--Names by Todd Bennett

Walk In the Light Series--Sabbath by Todd Bennett

Walk In the Light Series--Kosher by Todd Bennett

Walk In the Light Series--The Law and Grace by Todd Bennett

THE SCRIPTURES by Institute for Scripture Research

Available Online at www.fossilizedcustoms.com

NOTE: Any underlining or bracketing is mine.

Send questions or comments to Average Joe at AverageJoe93054@att.net

Unless noted otherwise, all scripture quotations are from The Authorized King James Version or from The Institute for Scripture Research translation of:

THE SCRIPTURES